

AN INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC ART IN TRANSPORTATION A NON-URBAN FOCUS



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CITY OF TUCSON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Artist Planners and Project Artists

Artist Planners work with the Design Team and Community during the initial planning phase of the project. Their role is to provide preliminary planning services for the roadway or corridor and will not be creating art. The goals of this process are:

- Understand the public art opportunities and constraints
- Determine potential art locations
- Identify themes and/or types of public art that are appropriate for each location
- Identify unique opportunities along the roadway
- Research the site from a cultural and historical perspective
- Develop guidelines for project artist selections
- Provide resources for future project public artists

Project Artists share many of the goals of the Artist Planners, however they provide specific art design and art elements for the project. They work with the design team during the design phase and then create art for the project during the construction phase.



Funding Sources

Federal and State Funding

Federal and state governments provide the largest share of funding for transportation projects. These include roadway and transit (rail, bus) projects as well as bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Local Funding

Cities and Counties may also pass local tax initiatives to fund transportation projects. Local examples include the \$350 million Pima County 1997 Roadway Bond Program and the \$2.1 billion 2006 Regional Transportation Authority bond program.



Why Art?

- Improves the “livability” of our city
- Symbol of civic enlightenment
- Reflects a sense of place
- Celebrates our culture and encourages cultural tourism
- Adds value to infrastructure
- Humanizes aspects of the project
- Adds beauty to our neighborhoods



Community Involvement with Art Process

Citizen Design Review Committee (CDRC) role with artist:

- Share neighborhood perspective and identity
- Help artists make a connection to the community
- Understand the art process so that future project committees will make informed choices
- Act as liaison to greater community in order to help educate and share information about the process
- Offer feedback and constructive criticism



General Transportation Definitions

Infrastructure

Infrastructure is a built element such as a roadway, utility lines, drainageway or components of those elements.
It can include:

- * Pavement
- * Sidewalks
- * Curbs
- * Drainage Channels
- * Walls
- * Traffic Signals
- * Signage
- * Lighting



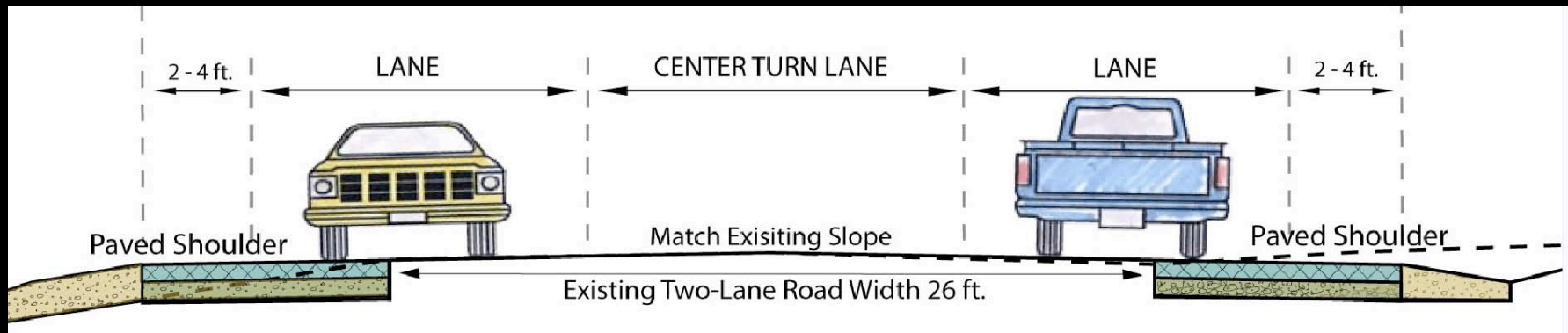
Scenic Roadways may have unique views or natural and visual resources such as vegetation, architecture and geology.



Nodes are locations along a transportation corridor (roadway, transit route, bike route, trail) that may have higher activity or concentrations due to an activity center or amenities. In a rural setting, a node could incorporate landscaping or natural features.



Right of Way is property or land that for a roadway includes the cleared land area on each side of the road that may include landscaping, utility lines, walls, and walking paths. The road right-of-way is much wider than the actual road itself and typically extends to adjacent property lines. Artists often look for areas in the right of way that may be appropriate for the placement of artwork.



Retaining Wall is a wall designed to hold back earth



Sound Wall is a wall designed to block noise or sound that exceeds certain limits



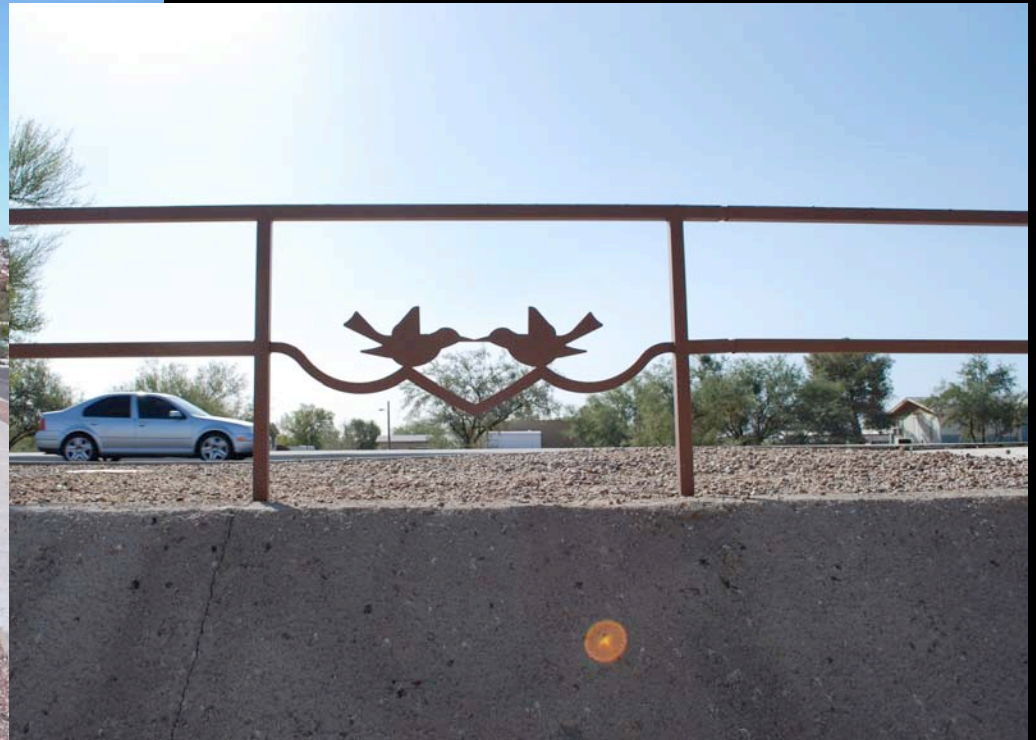
Paving on roadways is typically asphalt; sidewalks are concrete; but some pedestrian areas may be paved with bricks or paving stones. Medians are typically not paved except for short sections at intersections which may be paved in concrete.



Channelized Wash is a wash or drainageway that has been modified and lined with concrete or other material to minimize or prevent erosion and keep the wash limited to a specific course.



Rail tends to be metal, tubular steel designed to block pedestrian travel.

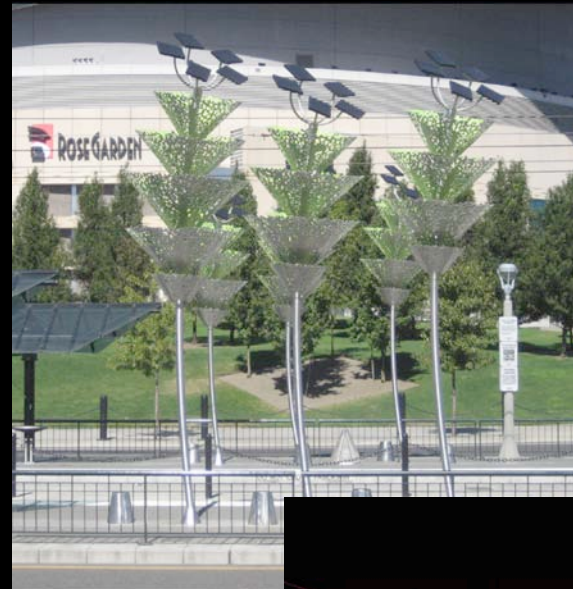


Artist designed square tubular rail with art element

Lighting on roadways traditionally is designed to improve visibility at intersections



Lighting is often used by artists as part of their artwork and can include Solar and LED lighting



General Art Definitions

Abstract Art does not imitate or directly represent external reality. Based on the theory that form, line and color can be a visual language without needing to refer to external realities.



Representational Art attempts to accurately depict its subject so that it is recognizable to the viewer.

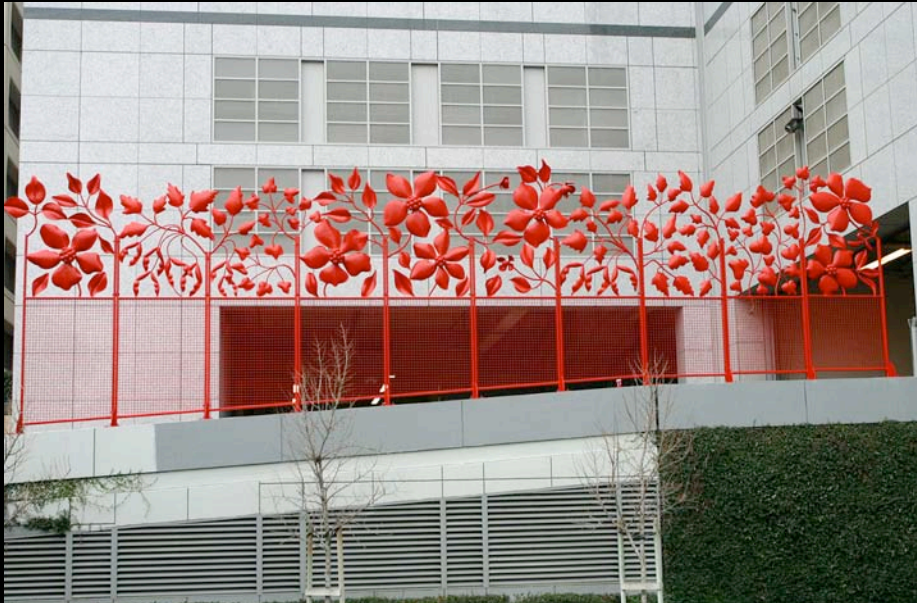


Media refers to the primary material an artist uses such as steel or cast bronze.



Mixed media refers to the use of more than one material in a work of art.

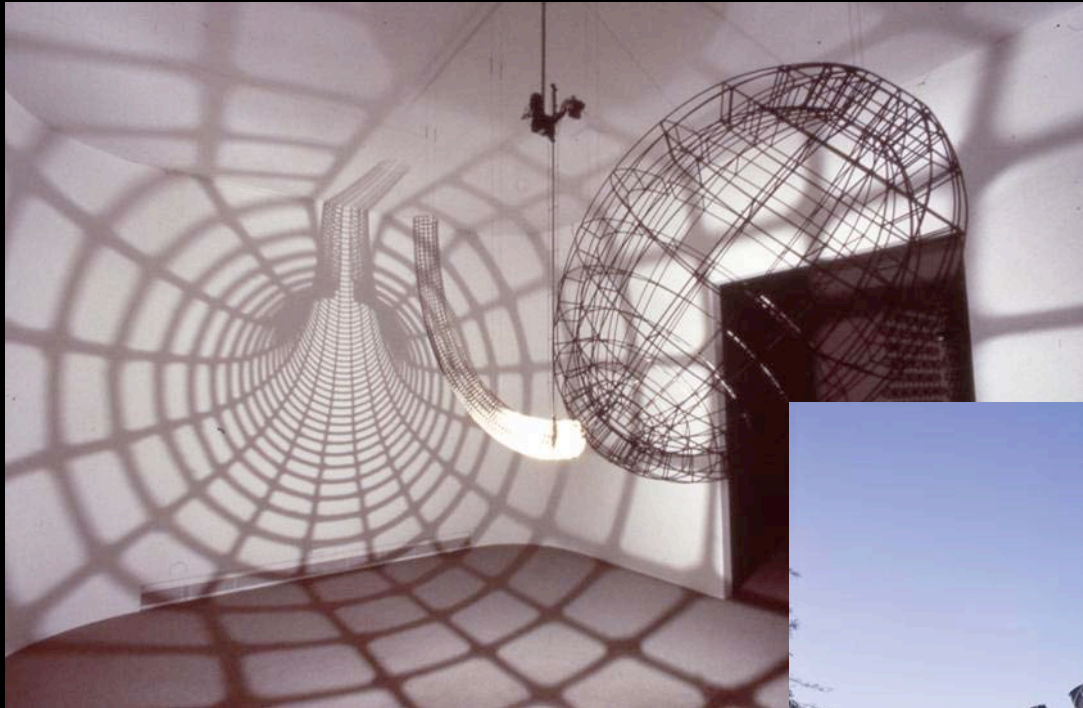
Some artists primarily use one media



Visual vocabulary refers to the visual language an artist uses to express themselves and their ideas. If you look at several works of art by one artist you will begin to see how they use materials and how they “think” and express their ideas. The artwork may vary but you will see similarities in their approach that could be defined as their visual language.



Aesthetic vision refers to the artist's concept of what is artistically valid. This may include the concepts of good design, beauty, a sense of the way materials are used and handled by the artist, a sense of what may be cohesive with the site.



Artistic inspiration in part is a process that combines the artist's internal feelings and thoughts with external influences resulting in a work of art.



Site-specific art is made for a certain place, which cannot be separated or exhibited apart from its intended environment. Most public art falls into this general category of “site specific art”.



Environmental Art focuses on interrelationships between humans and nature and may use natural materials and landscapes to convey meaning. Environmental art may restore damaged ecosystems and landscapes or may simply interpret historical, social, and environmental information.



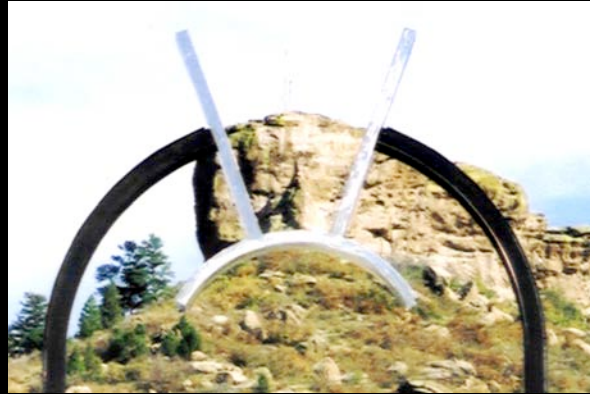
Environmental Art



Stand-alone art consists of sculptural artworks that are placed within the right of way where there is adequate space and viewing opportunity.



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Art that is integrated within infrastructure

means that it is physically attached to or exists as an aspect of the infrastructure.

This art can take many forms:

- * A Bridge – form, supports, underside and sides, railings, median etc.
- * Walls - retaining walls, sound walls, free standing, and seating walls
- * Paving - sidewalks, medians, roadway, comfort area. Materials include concrete, stone, brick, pavers, and rock mulch
- * Lighting or signage.



Art integrated with rail and fencing



Art Integrated within Concrete Infrastructure



Retaining walls with
form liner and tile work

Form liner work: a positive or negative design form is placed inside the form that the concrete is cast into.



Paving Patterns



Paving patterns can be made from a variety of materials including brick, tile, stone, and stamped concrete



Ceramic Tile, Stone, or Glass Integrated in Walls

The Design is the Art-Artist and Engineer Collaborations

In many cases artists collaborate with engineers, to influence the fundamental design of systems from bridges to parking structures. The artist may never physically make any part of the structure however it is their thinking and design that contributes to “outside the box” thinking about these structures. It is important to remember the artist is not just there to “beautify” or “decorate” a structure.



Landscape architects and artists are often primary collaborators

when the public art is integrated into the landscape areas and features. This goes well beyond the landscape acting as a setting to show off the art. The hardscape (built features such as paving, walls, fences and railings, boulders, shade structures, and lighting standards) may be integral or the art itself. The planting can carry a theme, meet functional needs, and create visual excitement. When the art and landscape design harmonize, the overall effect is much greater than the individual parts.

